

REMARKS

In the Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further define the component (B). This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, paragraph [0015]. Claim 1 has also been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1 and 3-10 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

a. Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. 08-269392 (Niwa et al. '392).

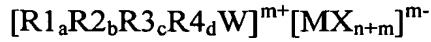
b. Claims 1-6, 8 and 10 have been rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. JP 08-231938 (Niwa et al. '938).

c. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 have been rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. JP 08-218296 (Niwa et al. '296).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims as amended are novel over Niwa et al. '392, Niwa et al. '938, and Niwa et al. '296 for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a cationic polymerizable resin composition comprising (A) a compound having at least one functional group capable of cationic ring-opening polymerization and (B) a cationic polymerization initiator to generate active species by electromagnetic wave or particle beam, which further comprises (C) a compound to generate a carbocation by the action of the active species generated from (B) the cationic polymerization initiator by electromagnetic wave or particle beam, in an amount of 0.01 to 10.0 % by weight based on 100 % by weight of the sum of the components (A) and (C), wherein the composition does not contain an epoxy compound, and wherein the component (B) is contained in an amount of 0.5 to 10.0 parts by

weight based on 100 parts by weight of the sum of the components (A) and (C), and the component (B) is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein the cation is an onium ion; W is I; R1, R2, R3, and R4 are the same or different organic groups; a, b, c and d are an integer from 0 to 3, respectively, and (a + b + c + d) is equal to a valence number of W; M is B, P, As, Sb, Fe, Sn, Bi, Al, Ca, In, Ti, Zn, Sc, V, Cr, Mn or Co; X is a halogen atom selected from F, Cl and Br; m is a net charge of the halogenated complex ion; and n is an atomic valence of M.

As described in paragraph [0022] of the present specification, the component (C) is activated by the cationic polymerization initiator (B) and thereby the polymerization is accelerated. The presently recited composition having the specified ratios of components (A), (B) and (C) can realize both curability and transparency, as shown in the Declaration by Mr. Ito previously submitted on April 14, 2008.

Furthermore, as described in paragraphs [0027]-[0028] of the present specification, the composition ratios of components (A), (B) and (C) as defined in claim 1 can provide sufficient curability. Moreover, a decrease in water resistance or coloration of the resins do not occur in practical applications. As such, the composition recited in claim 1 is suitable for use in applications such as a sealing agent, an adhesive, a painting material, a coating material, an ink and a sealing material as defined in claims 5 to 10.

Moreover, the Declaration previously submitted on April 14, 2008, showed that when the component (C) was used in an amount exceeding the presently claimed upper limit of 10.0 wt%, the coloration state becomes worse (Examples 7 and 8 and Comparative Examples 4 and 5).

Applicants submit herewith a further unexecuted Declaration by Mr. Yuichi Ito.

Applicants note that the executed Declaration will be submitted in the Patent Office in due

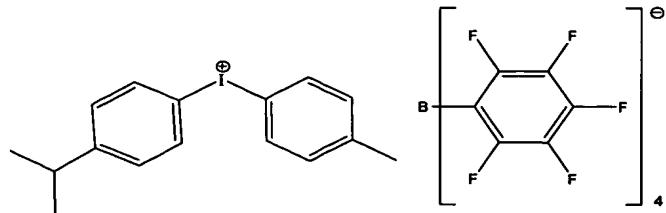
course. This Declaration demonstrates the unexpected results of the presently claimed invention by containing the specified component (B) and further supports the patentability of the present claims.

Specifically, in the Declaration, Reference Examples 1 and 2 were prepared in the same matter as described in Example 1 of the present specification, except that iodonium salt of diphenyliodonium and tris(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)methyde, and ADEKA OPTOMER SP170 were used in Reference Examples 1 and 2, respectively, instead of PHODORSIL PHOTOINITIATOR 2074. Reference Examples 1 and 2 were evaluated in terms of curability and the results are reproduced in the following table together with Example 1 of the present specification:

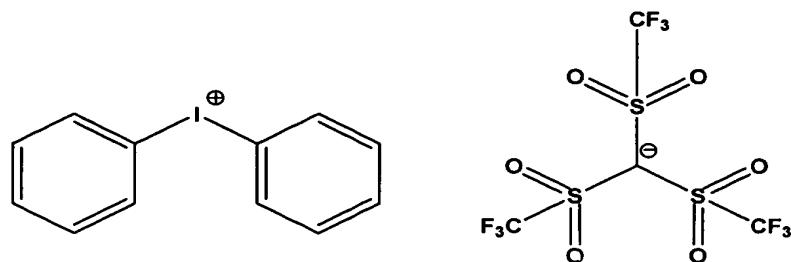
Table A

	Name of Formulated Components	Note	Example 1 of the specification	Reference Example 1	Reference Example 2
(A)	3 - ethyl - 3-phenoxy methyl oxetane	-	94.0	94.0	94.0
(B)	RHODORSIL PHOTOINITIATOR 2074	Iodonium salt	1.6		
	Diphenyliodonium tris(trifluoromethanesulfonyl) methyde	Iodonium salt		1.1	
(B')	ADEKA OPTOMER SP170	Sulfonium salt (amount of effective ingredient: 50%)			4.0 (2.0)
(C)	Iso-buthyl vinyl ether	-	6.0	6.0	6.0
Evaluation item	Curability		○	○	△

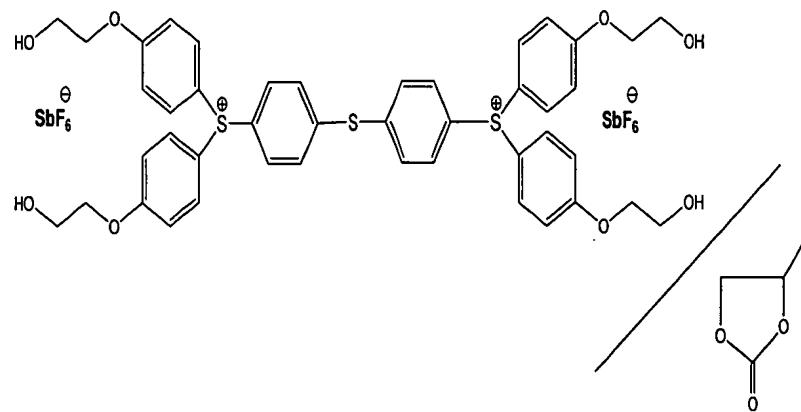
【RHODORSIL PHOTOMERATOR 2074】



【Diphenyliodonium Tris(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)methide】



【ADEKA OPTOMER SP170】



As can be seen from the data in the above table, Reference Example 1 and Example 1, which employed an iodonium salt as the compound (B), provided curability superior to Reference Example 2, which employed a sulfonium salt.

Niwa et al. '392, '938 and '296 are relied upon as disclosing compositions comprising an oxetane compound, a cationic photoinitiator and a vinyl ether. However, Niwa et al. '392, '938 and '296 do not exemplify a composition within the scope of present claim 1. In fact, Examples of Niwa et al. '392, '938 and '296 use the component (C) as large as 25 wt% and 75 wt%. Further, in the examples of Niwa et al. '392, '938 and '296, only sulfonium salts, i.e., a triarylsulfonium salt of formula (33), were employed as the photoinitiator. The triarylsulfonium salt of formula (33) is similar to that employed in Reference Example 2 of the Declaration submitted herein. Niwa et al. '392, '938 and '296 do not disclose the above discussed effects achievable in the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that present claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Niwa et al. '392, Niwa et al. '938, and Niwa et al. '296, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 3-10 depend from claim 1 and thus are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions

concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By:



Roger H. Lee, Registration No. 46317
for: Fang Liu, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51283

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VS 22313-1404
703 836 6620